

Sloulin International Airport Spruces up Terminal, Honors Namesakes

Williston Economic Development
By Barb Peterson



The Sloulin International Airport recently spruced up the exterior of its terminal – providing more outside seating space for flyers and giving more exposure to a plaque commemorating the airport’s namesakes.

Airport manager Steven Kjergaard says they removed overgrown vegetation in favor of stamped concrete.

“The concrete will be easier to maintain,” he says. “We have ordered more benches for additional seating and we wanted to pay homage to the Western Star City so we had six stars stamped into the concrete.”

The project also allowed the airport to better display a plaque which explains the origin of the airport’s name.

The Sloulin family donated a section of land to the City of Williston for the airport in honor of their fallen brothers. 1st Lt. Wesley C. Sloulin and 2nd Lt. Kermit G. Sloulin were killed in action just months apart during WW II.

Wesley was killed when the plane he was piloting exploded over the North African area on January 7, 1943. Kermit died in the South Pacific area November 21, 1942. It’s believed the brothers were approximately 23 (Wesley) and 30 (Kermit) at the times of their deaths.

Kjergaard said it always bothered him that the plaque wasn’t displayed well.

“It honors where the airport came from and the servicemen and women who gave their lives for our country,” he says.



The Sloulin International Airport was named in honor of 1st Lt. Wesley Sloulin (left) and 2nd Lt. Kermit Sloulin (right). The brothers were both killed in action during WW II.

The airport was officially dedicated as Sloulin Field on September 10, 1954 with the unveiling of the plaque by the brothers’ sister Edith Sloulin.

On May 22, 1983, the airport was officially rededicated. During the ceremony the Sloulin family - brothers Al, Vernon and Ralph and sister Edith presented the original American flags that were given to the Sloulin family during the burial of Wesley and Kermit.

At the time of the rededication - City of Williston officials said they were proud to have the airport named after these two fine Americans, Wesley and Kermit Sloulin.